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Letter dated 18 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit herewith a letter dated 18 December 2000, addressed to you by His Excellency Mr. Aytuğ Plümer, Representative of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus (see annex).

I should be grateful if the text of the present letter and its annex would be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Ümit **Pamir**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex to the letter dated 18 December 2000 from the Permanent Representative of Turkey to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Upon instructions from my Government, I have the honour to refer to the letter dated 25 October 2000 (A/55/527-S/2000/1041) addressed to you by the Greek Cypriot representative at the United Nations, which contains allegations of "violations of the airspace of the Republic" and "of the flight information region (FIR) of Nicosia".

It will be recalled that similar allegations of so-called "airspace and FIR violations" were rejected in our previous communications addressed to you, most recently in my letter dated 18 October 2000 (A/55/503-S/2000/1004). I wish to reiterate that flights within the sovereign airspace of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus take place with the full knowledge and consent of the appropriate authorities of the State, over which the Greek Cypriot administration in South Cyprus has no jurisdiction or any right of say whatsoever.

As stated in my previous letters, the basis of such allegations is the pretence that the sovereignty of the Greek Cypriot administration extends over the entire island, including the territory of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus. This position of the Greek Cypriot side, however, is divorced from the reality that there exist two states on the island, a reality created by the destruction of the 1960 partnership Republic of Cyprus and the usurpation of its title by the Greek Cypriot administration.

The aim of the Greek Cypriot side is to divert attention from its intensified militarization policy being implemented together with Greece within the framework of the Joint Military Doctrine. The Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus has repeatedly drawn the attention of all concerned to this perilous trend.

The Greek Cypriot daily *Politis* dated 24 October 2000 reported that Greece will donate two gunboats and 12 mobile artillery systems to the Greek Cypriot National Guard. The same newspaper dated 7 November 2000 further reported that the Greek Cypriot administration intends to strengthen the capabilities of the Greek Cypriot National Guard and has already earmarked necessary funds for the purchase of BUK-MI missile systems as well as 4 Bell helicopters and other types of helicopters equipped with weapon systems. *The Sunday Mail* of 22 October 2000 reported that the Greek Cypriot leader Mr. Glafcos Clerides *"thanked Greece for its support, noting that Athens had given Cyprus military hardware worth £400 million over the past four years"*. In the course of the implementation of the Joint Military Doctrine, particularly with the construction of a military airbase at Paphos (South Cyprus) which has been allocated to Greece, the Greek Cypriot administration has been effectively integrated into the military sphere of Greece.

On behalf of the Government of the Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus, I strongly protest the policy of escalation pursued by the Greek Cypriot administration as well as its campaign of misinformation against Northern Cyprus and Turkey. I would like to express the hope that the international community would urge the Greek Cypriot administration to abandon its military preparations, which reinforce the crisis of confidence between the two parties, and to direct its efforts towards reconciliation on the island through a new partnership of two States in Cyprus.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 64, and of the Security Council.

(*Signed*) Aytuğ **Plümer**
Representative
Turkish Republic of Northern Cyprus